

Music development plan summary: NCEA Castle School

Our school is committed to providing high-quality music education and ensuring that all pupils have regular opportunities to learn, perform and develop their musical skills.

Our provision includes:

- At least one hour of timetabled music each week for all pupils, including daily 'Hello', song time and discrete music sessions throughout the week
- Access to instrumental lessons across a range of instruments, supported by the school and Northumberland Music Service, with opportunities for rehearsal, after-school clubs and individual practice.
- Opportunities to experience live music performance at least once each year, broadening pupils' musical experiences.
- Continued partnership with Nordoff Robins to support therapeutic musical interaction and communication through music.

We will continue to develop our music provision in subsequent years, ensuring that pupils have access to a broad range of musical experiences and opportunities to listen, create, perform and progress.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	29.09.26
Date this summary will be reviewed	29.09.27
Name of the school music lead	Laura Milne
Name of local music hub	Northumberland SLA
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Nordoff Robins

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

Our music curriculum is informed by the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and the National Curriculum, ensuring that pupils experience a broad and progressive music education.

Music is inclusive and accessible to all pupils. Staff are trained to use music as a means of communication, engagement and interaction, with specialist training supporting their understanding of how music can help to break down physical and sensory barriers to learning.

Pupils experience music across the curriculum, including through communication and ICT, as well as through discrete music sessions where appropriate. These sessions provide opportunities to develop skills in singing, playing instruments and participating in whole-class ensembles.

Our approach ensures that music is used both as a subject in its own right and as an effective tool to support communication, engagement, participation and learning for all pupils.

Pupils in the post-14 pathway have opportunities to work towards recognised music accreditations, supporting them to develop their musical skills, confidence and independence while gaining meaningful qualifications as part of their wider curriculum.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Outside of class, pupils have opportunities to participate in one-to-one or group musical interaction sessions with Nordoff and Robbins. These sessions can be used as a therapeutic intervention to support engagement, regulation, communication and confidence, helping pupils to access learning and participate more fully in educational opportunities.

Our lunchtime Makaton school choir provides an inclusive opportunity for pupils to engage in music and performance, with participation adapted to meet individual needs and communication styles.

Pupils can also access music after-school clubs delivered by Northumberland SLA, providing opportunities to develop their musical interests, skills and confidence beyond the school day.

Part C: Musical experiences

Pupils have a wide range of opportunities to experience live musical performances throughout the school year, including visits and performances from sensory theatre groups, pantomimes and musical ensembles. These experiences support pupils to develop their enjoyment and appreciation of live music and performance in an accessible and engaging way.

In the future

We will continue to develop our curriculum, co-curricular and wider musical experiences in subsequent years. A bi-annual Music Curriculum Day will be introduced, providing opportunities for music to be used creatively across the curriculum alongside other core subjects.

Live performance opportunities will remain a priority, ensuring that pupils have regular access to the arts, broaden their cultural experiences and develop musical interests that can continue beyond school.

Further information (optional)

Northumberland Music: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/education-skills/northumberland-music>

Nordoff and Robbins: <https://www.nordoff-robbins.org.uk/>